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any outside power, and he indicated that Italy would regard with great concern any moves by Yugoslavia or Greece to obtain control in Albania. He inquired whether we had any information which would indicate that the British Government was planning some action involving Albania and intimated that his Government suspected that the British were involved in a deal with either the Yugoslavs or the Greeks, or both.

I pointed out that we had already informed his Government of our interest in the formation of the Free Albania Committee, but observed that the death of its leader, Fresheri, had kept the Committee from making much progress. I said that we were extremely interested in any intelligence relating to Albania and explained that this had arisen in the first instance because of the fact that operations against Greece had been conducted from Albania. I said that, although these operations had now been suspended and probably abandoned, we would be interested in making certain that no further moves against Greece were contemplated. Referring to the fact that we had no diplomatic relations with Albania, I said we had received many reports that there were a large number of Russians in Albania and reports that the Russians had constructed a submarine base on an island off the Albanian coast. I said we would, of course, be interested in any intelligence bearing on such reports.

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I said we would also be interested in knowing whether Yugoslavia or Greece was engaged in any plans or operations in this area. I informed him that US policy with respect to Albania was identical with Italian policy as he had described it, namely, that we desired to see a Government in Albania that was completely independent and free of foreign control, but said there seemed to be little prospect at the moment of any such Government being established.

I reminded him that we had informed his Government of our desire, following the General Assembly of the United Nations, to prevent arms and ammunition from reaching Albania. I assured him, however, that while we were glad to see the pressure on the present regime in Albania maintained as well as the difficulties which the Russians were encountering in maintaining their influence there, we did not have any plans with respect to Albania other than to keep currently informed as far as possible respecting the situation in that country.

With respect

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